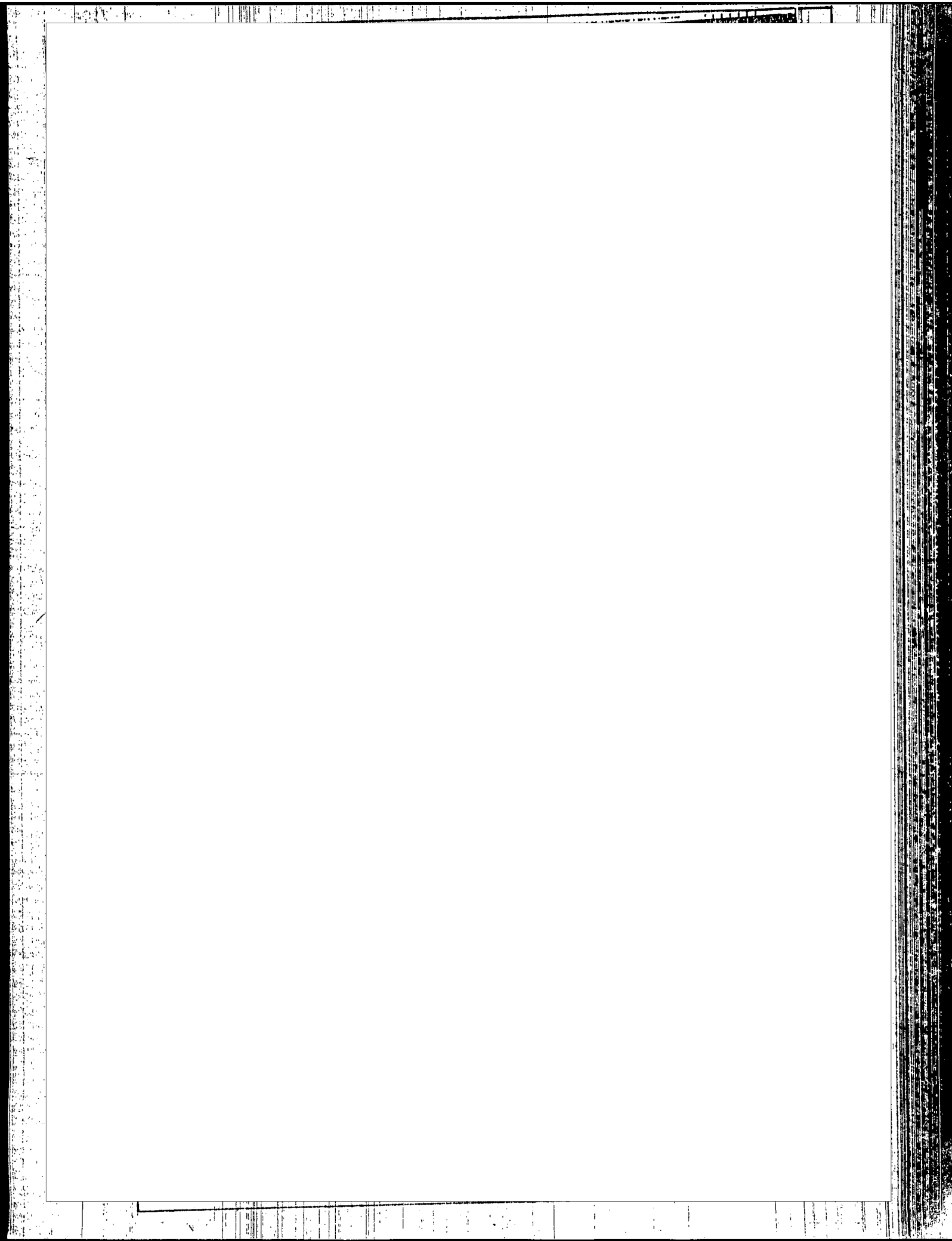


(b)(1)
(b)(3)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐
DATE: 10-28-2009



[REDACTED] : THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED
IN NOVEMBER THAT THEY HAD CONDUCTED THREE SUCCESSFUL BALLISTIC
MISSILE TESTS DURING JULY AND ALLUDED TO TWO OTHER PREVIOUS
TESTS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THAT THE S-3, THEIR NEW
LAND-BASED IRBM, HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TESTED IN JULY AND WAS

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AT THE END OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. THE FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE STRATEGIC AIR FORCE WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH OPERATIONAL S-35 BY 1982. THEY FURTHER STATED THAT THEY HAVE CONDUCTED THREE TEST LAUNCHES OF THE "WARHEAD" FOR THEIR NEW M-4 SLBM OVER THE PAST 13 MONTHS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO EARLIER M-20 TESTS WITH M-4 "WARHEADS" IN APRIL 1979 AND DECEMBER 1976.

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION BULLETIN, THE PURPOSE OF THESE TESTS WAS TO STUDY THE REENTRY OF THE RVS OF THE M-4 MISSILE. THE M-4 MISSILE, WHICH IS INTENDED TO GRADUALLY REPLACE THE M-20 SYSTEM, WILL CARRY MULTIPLE REENTRY VEHICLES.

[REDACTED]

3. ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE LAUNCHED ON 24 DECEMBER [REDACTED]
: THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE FROM KOURU, FRENCH GUIANA AT ABOUT 1715Z ON 24 DECEMBER. THE PAYLOAD CONTAINED ONLY TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT TO MONITOR CONDITIONS ABOARD THE LAUNCH VEHICLE. THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL ARIANE TEST LAUNCH. ONE OF FOUR BOOSTER

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ENGINES FAILED TO INDICATE FULL THRUST IN AN EARLIER ATTEMPT,
USING THE SAME VEHICLE, ON 15 DECEMBER. [REDACTED]

THE ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE WAS DESIGNED TO PUT OVER 1,000 KG
INTO GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT AND THEREBY LESSEN EUROPEAN
DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES SPACE PROGRAM. THE NEXT ARIANE
TEST LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED TO PUT THE AMATEUR RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE (AMSAT) AND THE WEST GERMAN SCIENTIFIC
SATELLITE, FIREWHEEL, INTO ORBIT. [REDACTED]

